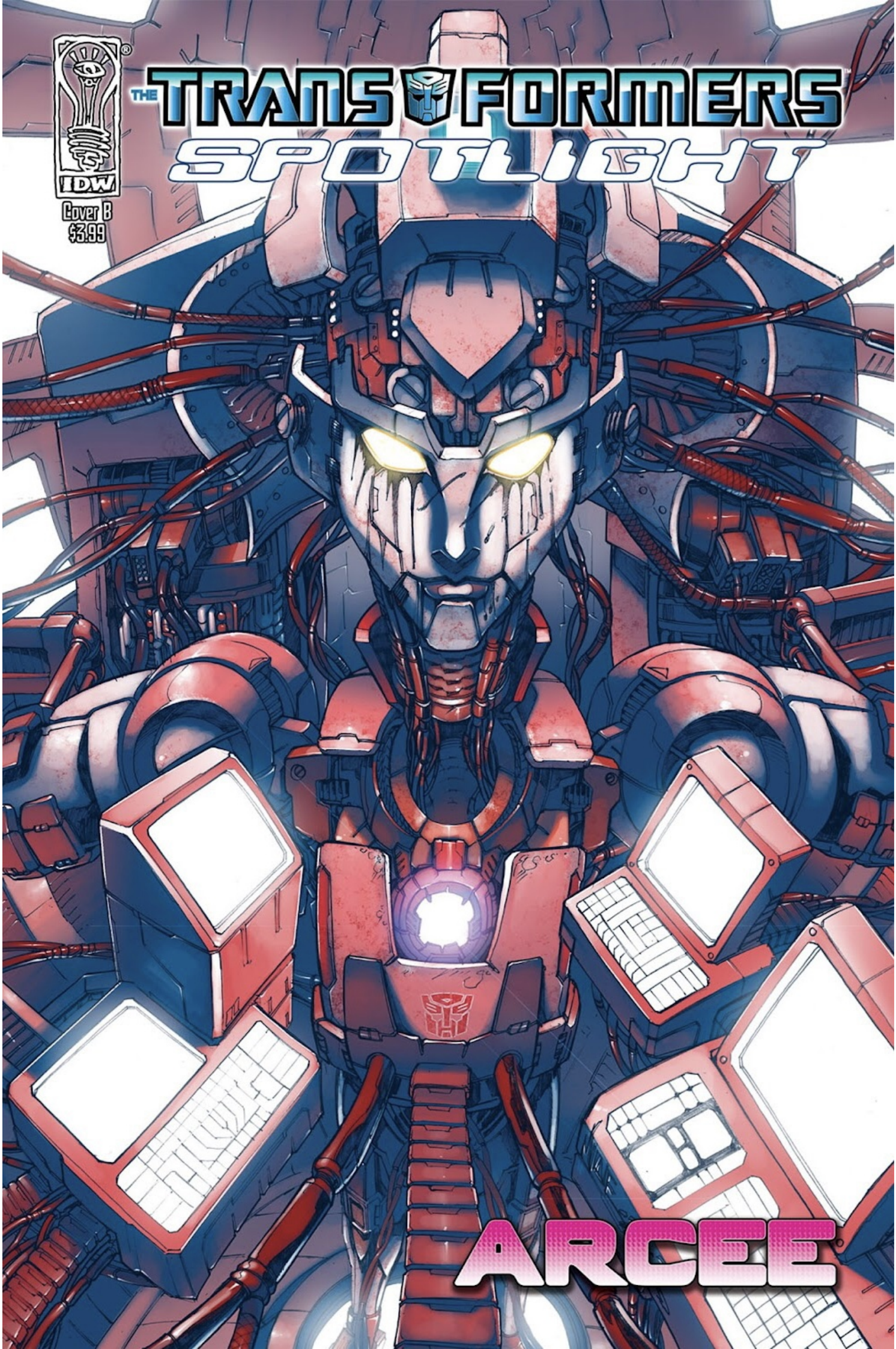
IDW
Cover A
$3.99
THE TRANSFORMERS
SPOTLIGHT
ARCEE


IDW
Cover B
$3.99
THE TRANSFORMERS
SPOTLIGHT
ARCEE

IDW
Cover-RI
THE TRANSFORMERS
SPOTLIGHT
ARCEE
Sketch Cover by Alex Milne

Mad, bad and dangerous to know! That's ARCEE, AUTOBOT by allegiance but just totally out of control, an untameable, unrestrained force of nature with tactics and ethics that would put many a DECEPTICON to shame. Having waged a vitriolic war against a perceived enemy for many years, ARCEE was finally brought to task and incarcerated. Driven by personal demons and a severe mental trauma, Arcee is now considered just too dangerous to ever be let loose. But, sometimes, desperate times call for desperate measures…

THE TRANSFORMERS SPOTLIGHT: ARCEE

WRITTEN BY: SIMON FURMAN
ART BY: ALEX MILNE
COLORS BY: JOSH PEREZ AND KRIS CARTER
LETTERS BY: CHRIS MOWRY
EDITS BY: CHRIS RYALL

Licensed by: Hasbro

Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Sheri Lucci, Richard Zambarano, Jared Jones, Michael Provost, Michael Richie, and Michael Verrecchia for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

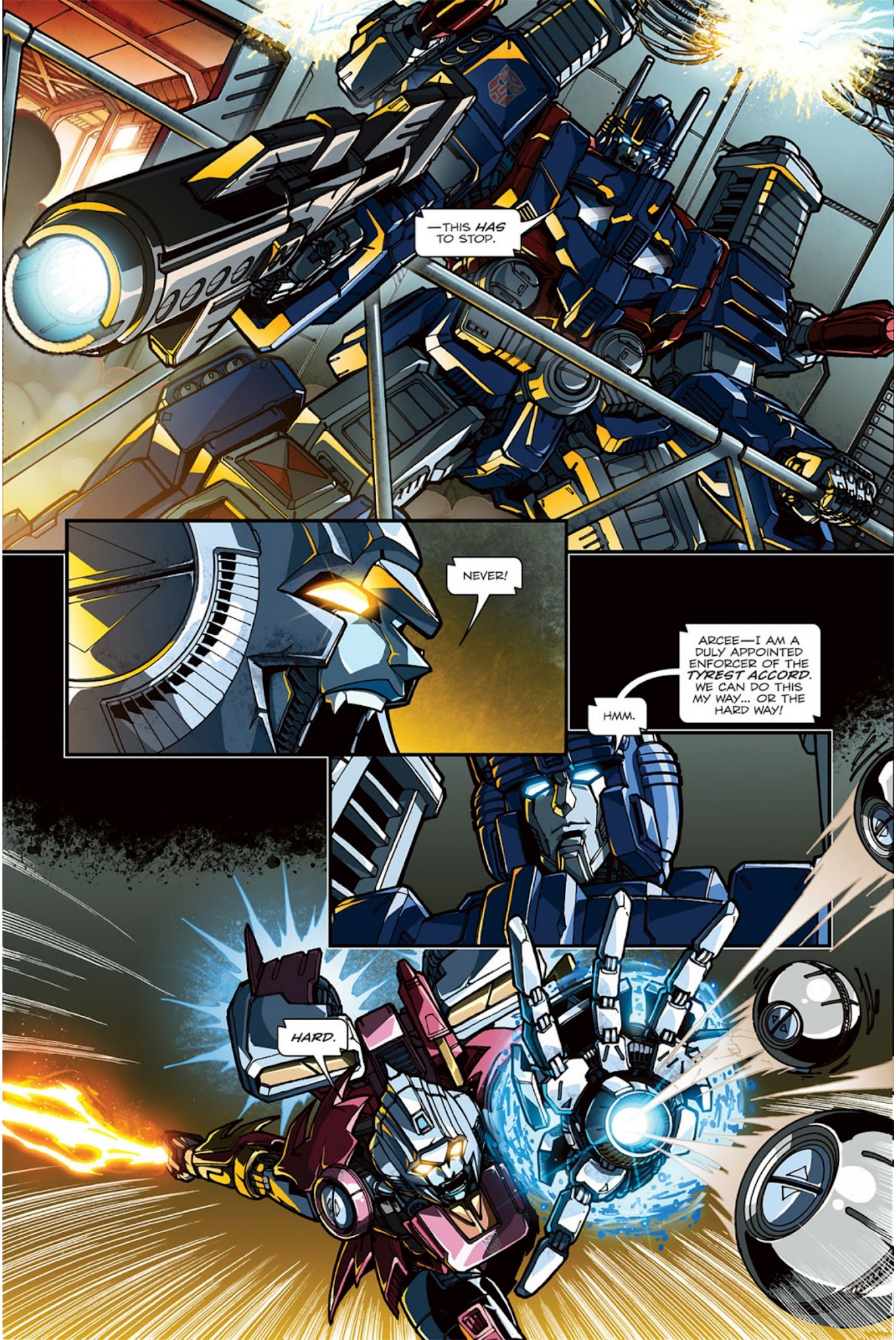
WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

IDW Publishing is:
Ted Adams, President
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Clifford Meth, EVP of Strategies/Editorial
Alan Payne, VP of Sales
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Tom Waltz, Editor
Andrew Steven Harris, Editor
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Amauri Osorio, Graphic Artist
Dene Nee, Graphic Artist/Editor
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Kris Oprisko, Editor/Foreign Lic. Rep.

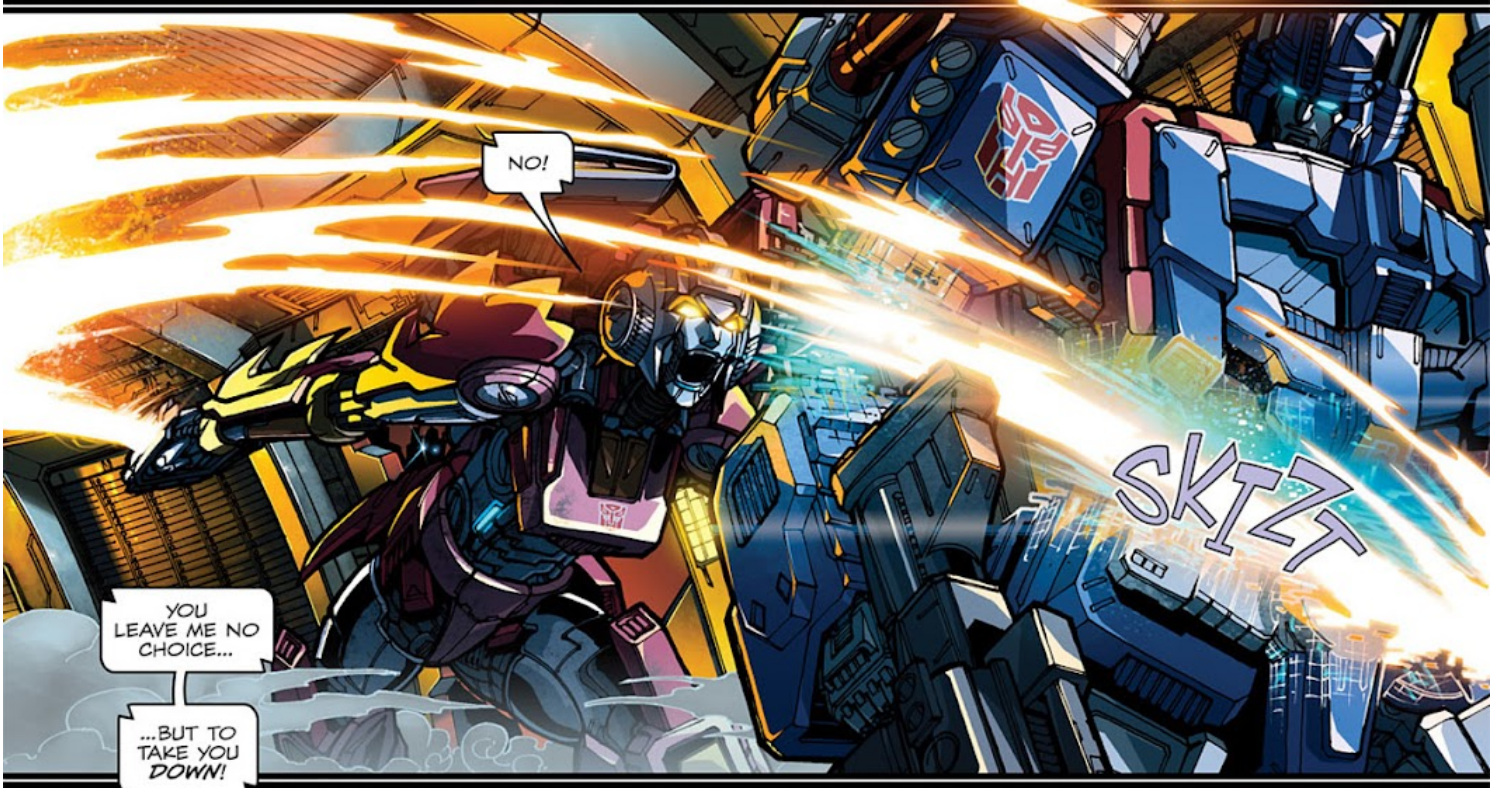
THE TRANSFORMERS SPOTLIGHT: ARCEE. FEBRUARY 2008. FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117.

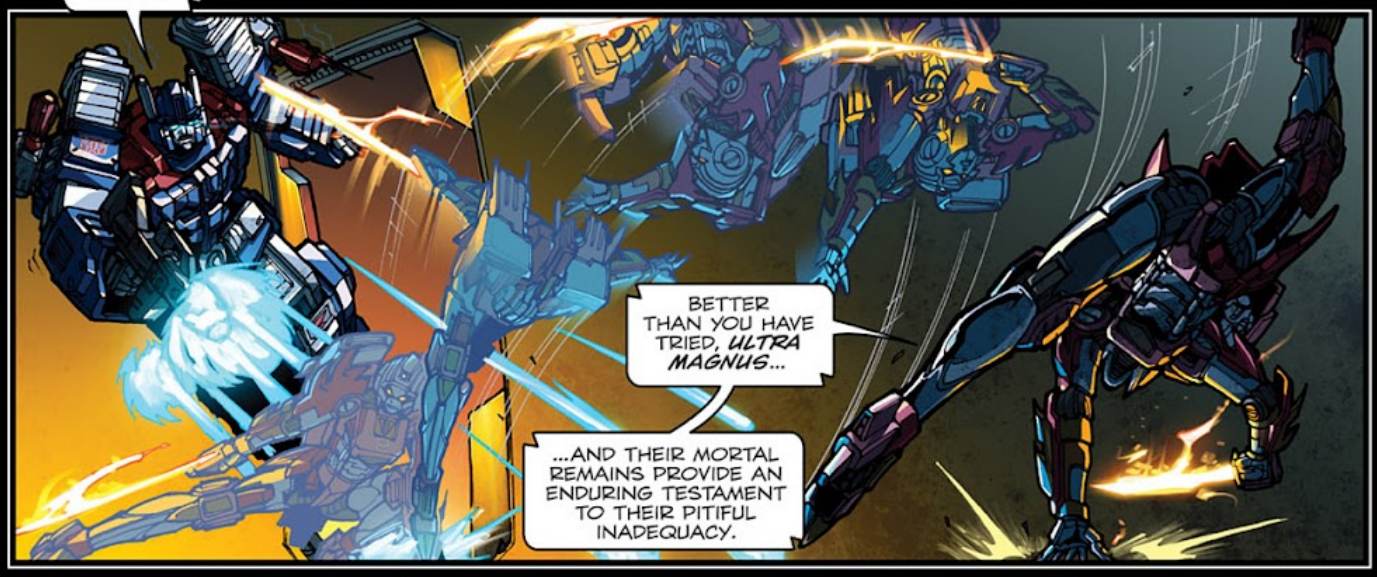
HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2008 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.
IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

STELLAR CARTOGRAPHY ARCHIVE, VAN-DEMA SECTOR:
HE WAS HERE!
JHI-AX-US!
HIS VILE PRESENCE LINGERS, TAINTING THIS STERILE, RAREFIED SPACE, A DARK, TANGIBLE STIGMA NO PURIFICATION SYSTEM CAN EVER PURGE.
AND WHERE HE GOES THERE IS DARKNESS AND DIRE CONSEQUENCE AND I WILL FIND HIS DEVIANT WORK AND I WILL BURN IT DOWN. ALL OF IT!
ARCEE—


—THIS HAS TO STOP.
NEVER!
ARCEE—I AM A DULY APPOINTED ENFORCER OF THE TYREST ACCORD. WE CAN DO THIS MY WAY... OR THE HARD WAY!
HMM.
HARD.

SHAMF
HT!
DAMN.
ARCEE, I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY, BUT YOU'VE LEFT A TRAIL OF CARNAGE HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY AND NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHY. PLEASE...
...ENLIGHTEN ME!
IT WOULDN'T HELP. YOU DON'T HAVE THE OPTICS TO SEE, OR, EVEN HAVING SEEN, THE PERCEPTION TO DIVINE THE MEANING OF HIS DARK DESIGNS.
SOMETHING IS COMING! SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING... AT A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL! AND I...
...AM THE SERVO-WRENCH IN THE WORKS!


NO!
SKIZZT
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO TAKE YOU DOWN!

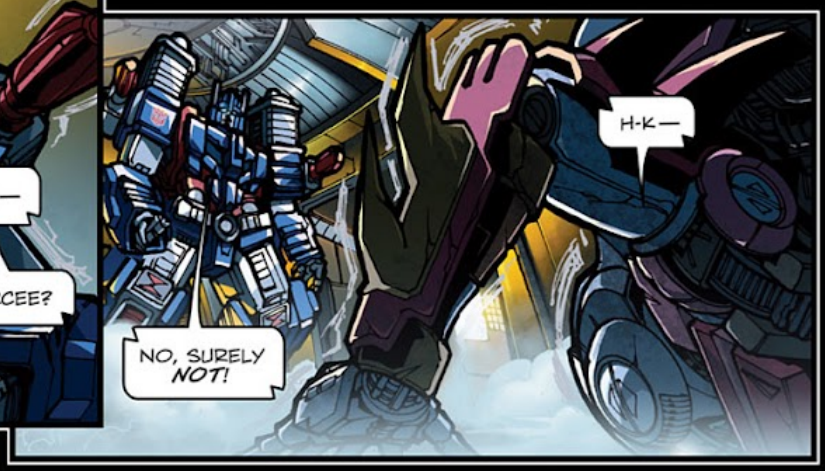

BETTER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED, ULTRA MAGNUS...
...AND THEIR MORTAL REMAINS PROVIDE AN ENDURING TESTAMENT TO THEIR PITIFUL INADEQUACY.

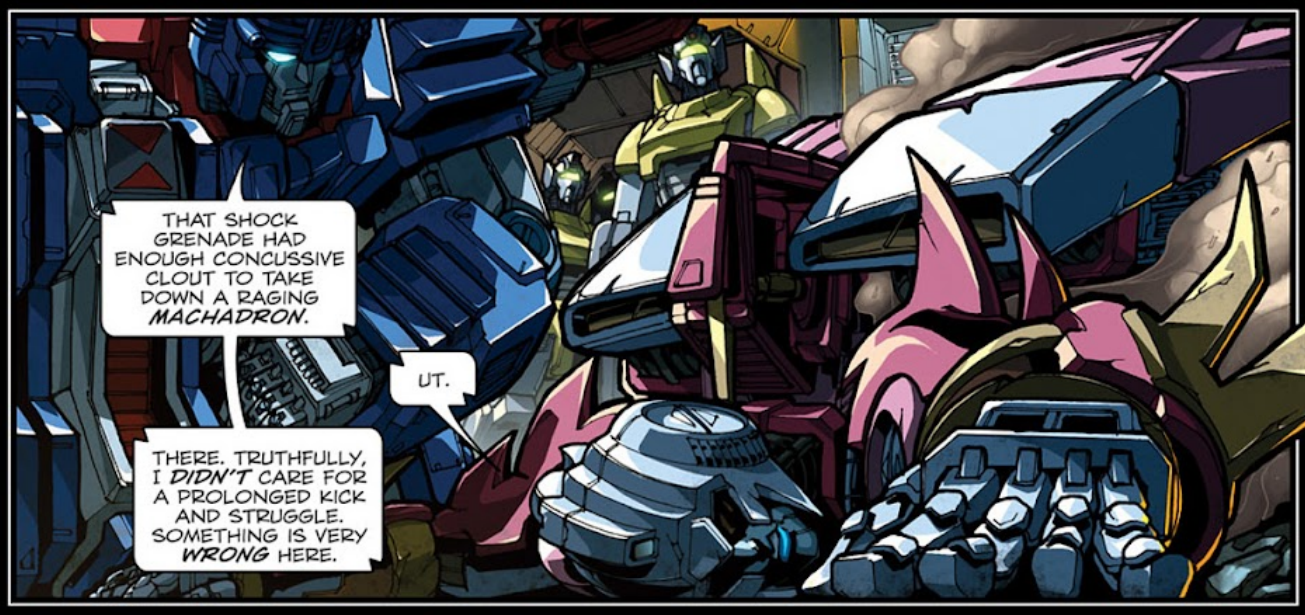
ZZOM

NOTHING PERSONAL, YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE JUST BETWEEN *ME*...
...AND *HIM*!
SO BE IT.

SHYMMM

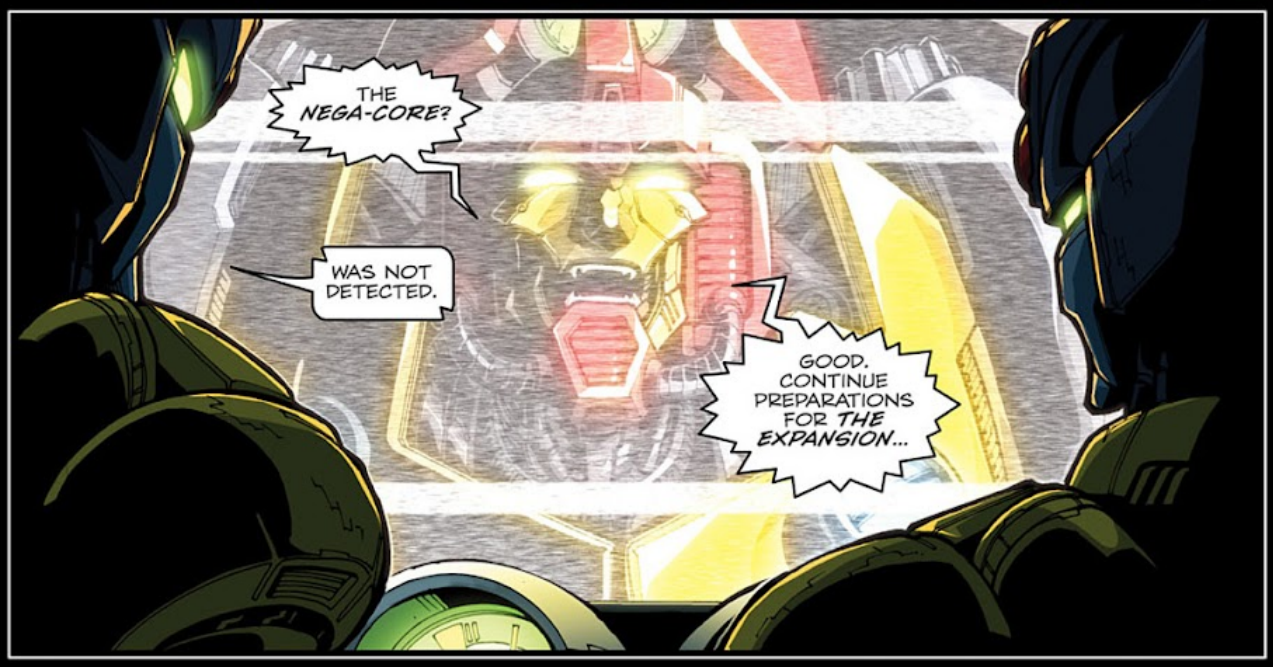
ENH. OHHH...
ARR—
ARCEE?

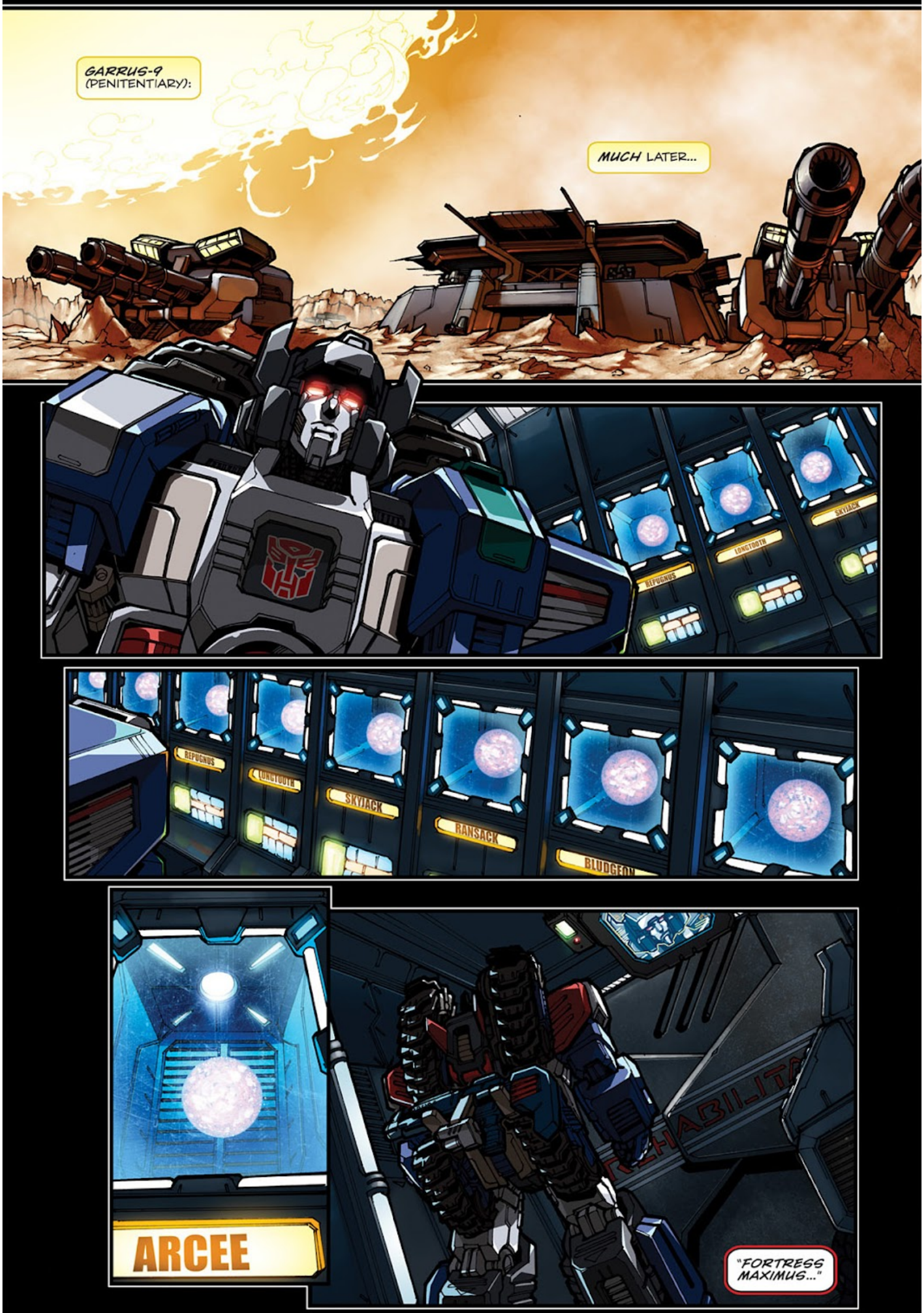

H-K—
NO, SURELY *NOT*!


THAT SHOCK GRENADE HAD ENOUGH CONCUSSIVE CLOUT TO TAKE DOWN A RAGING *MACHADRON*.
UT.
THERE. TRUTHFULLY, I *DIDN'T* CARE FOR A PROLONGED KICK AND STRUGGLE. SOMETHING IS VERY *WRONG* HERE.

LATER...

SPEAK.
THE FACILITY IS CLEAR. BOTH OF THE *AUTOBOTS* HAVE DEPARTED.

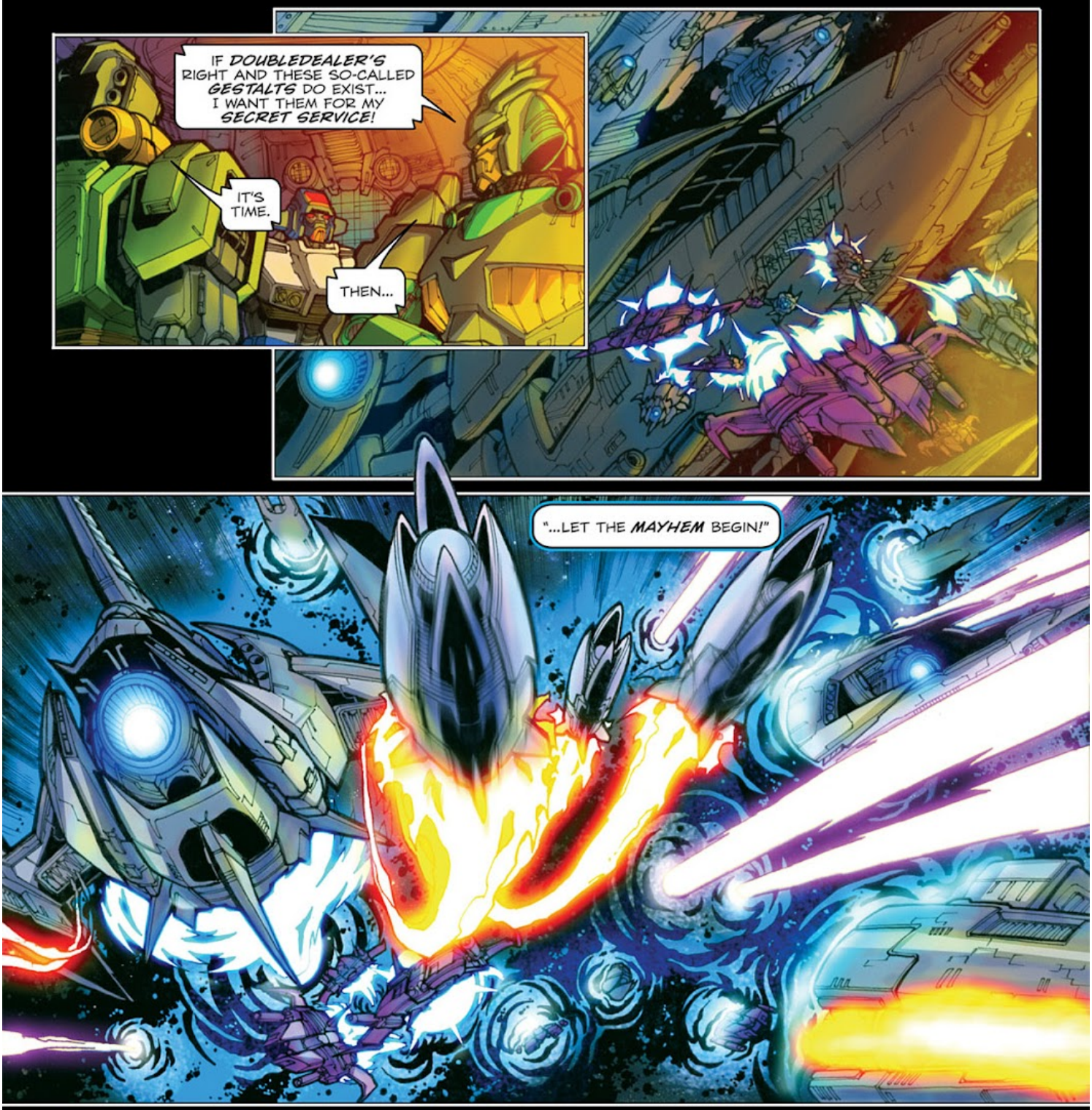

THE *NEGA-CORE*?
WAS NOT DETECTED.
GOOD. CONTINUE PREPARATIONS FOR *THE EXPANSION*...


GARRUS-9 (PENITENTIARY):
MUCH LATER...
REPUGNUS
LONGTOOTH
SKYJACK
REPUGNUS
LONGTOOTH
SKYJACK
RANSACK
BLUDGEON
ARCEE
"FORTRESS MAXIMUS..."

...WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN TO REHAB?
PROGRESS REPORT, JETFIRE. I WANT TO KNOW HOW SOON CAN I EXPECT TO HAVE THESE SIX...
...STRIPPED TO THEIR SPARKS AND FIRMLY UNDER LOCK AND KEY IN THE RIG.
IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. THIS IS REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE. BEFORE WE CAN BEGIN TO UNDO...
...WE FIRST NEED TO UNDERSTAND.
THESE SIX INDIVIDUALS—SCOWL, SLOG, WILDFLY, BRISTLEBACK, ICEPICK AND BIRDBRAIN—HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH AT A SUB-MOLECULAR LEVEL, THEIR BODIES AND MINDS FUSED INTO ONE COMBINED ENTITY THAT CALLS ITSELF MONSTRUCTOR.
MY REMIT AT G-9 IS TO REFORM RATHER THAN INCARCERATE. IN THIS CASE, EVERYTHING WE'VE TRIED HAS MET WITH AN UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF RESISTANCE, AS IF THE URGE TO DESTROY HAS BEEN HARD-WIRED INTO THEIR GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS.

"...WE'LL *ALL* BE SORRY."

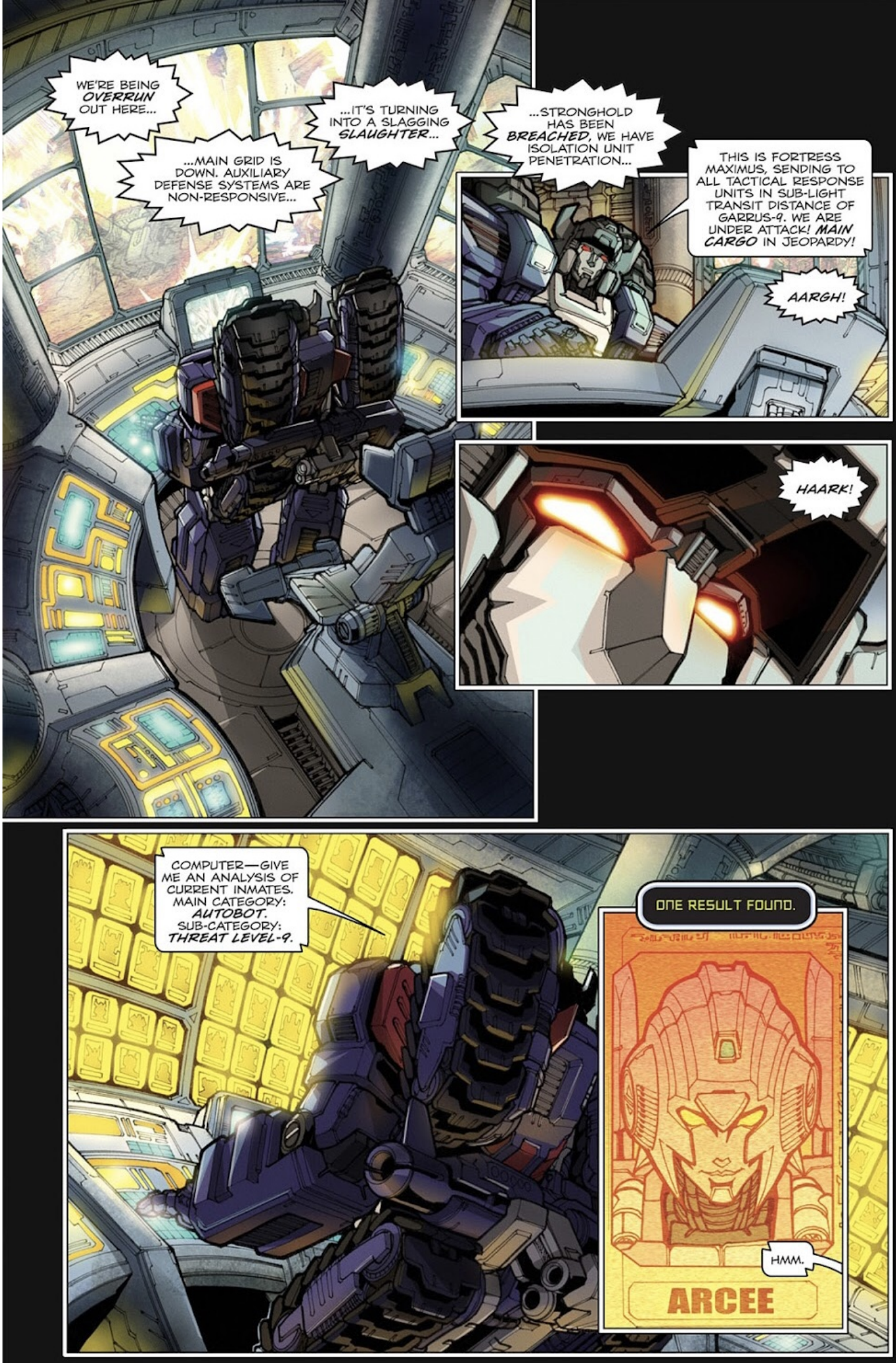
GHOST SHIELD STATUS?

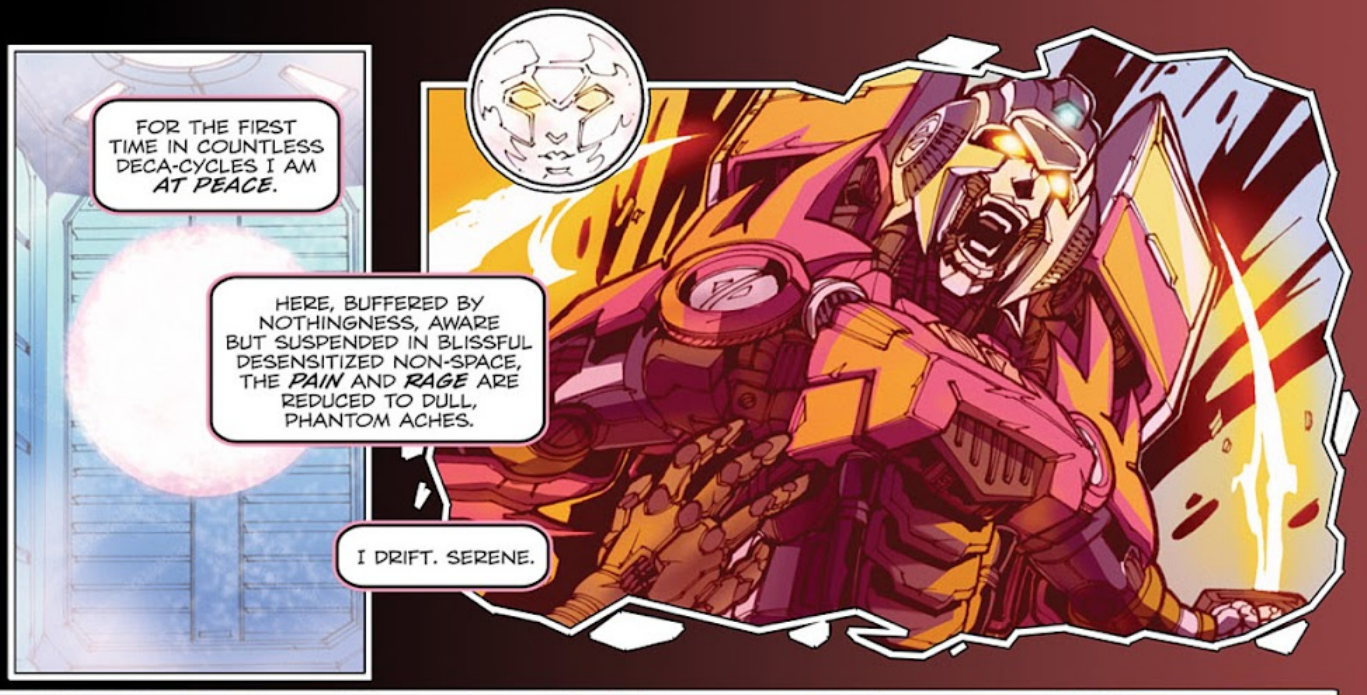

IF DOUBLEDEALER'S RIGHT AND THESE SO-CALLED GESTALTS DO EXIST... I WANT THEM FOR MY SECRET SERVICE!
IT'S TIME.
THEN...
"...LET THE MAYHEM BEGIN!"

FSTOOM
THEY WERE JUST THERE! LIKE, OUT OF NOWHERE! AND THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHERE TO HIT US!
QUICK, KICK-OFF, ACTIVATE AUTOGUNS AND MOBILIZE CRISIS RESPONSE UNITS, OR THIS'LL BE OVER...

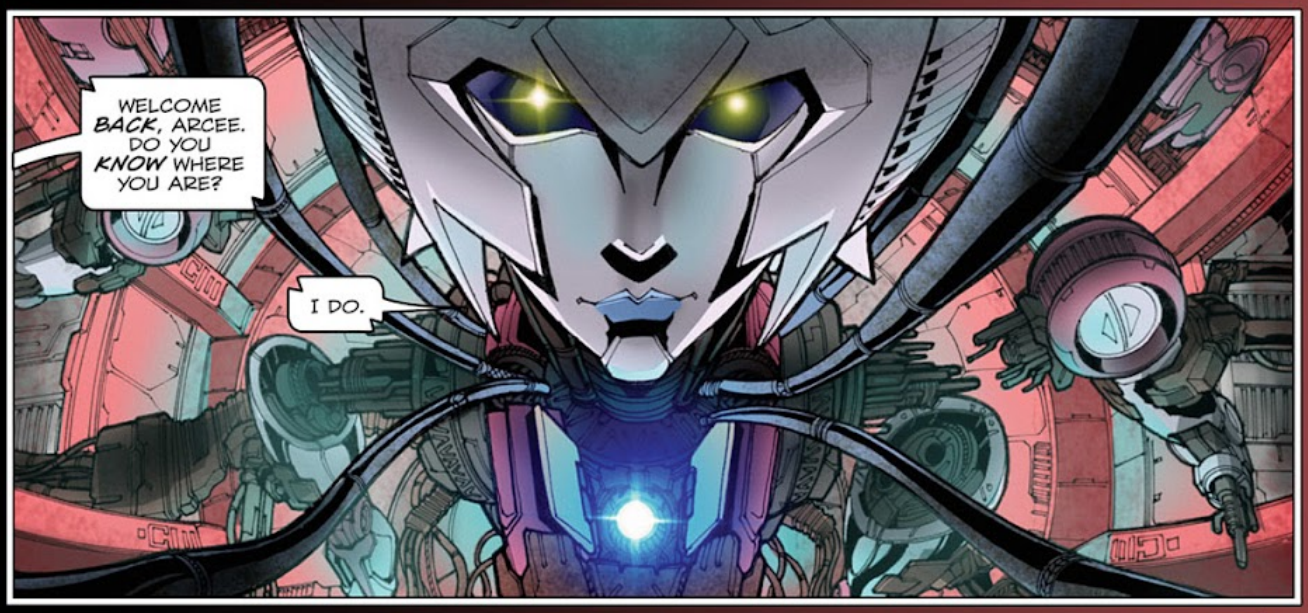
"...BEFORE IT'S STARTED!"
BUDDA-BUDDA
JAWHUM
VOZW
SHADDAAM
WHOMPH
D-DAM

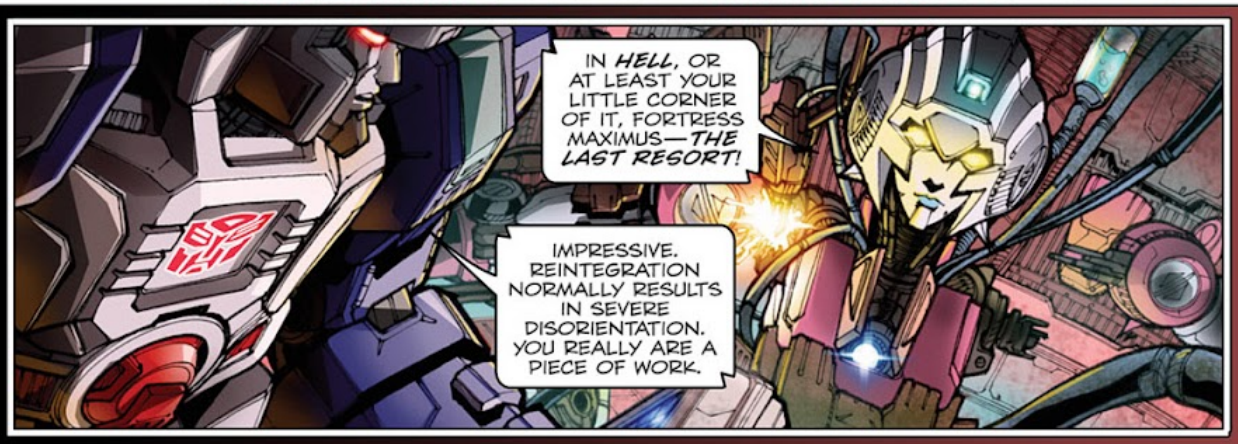
SHANG
FHT-
-SHZZSH
COMBATICONS—MOVE IN! MUTILATE, MAUL OR MASSACRE ANYTHING BETWEEN YOU AND THE TARGET.
ONSLAUGHT... YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED. WE AIM TO MAIM!

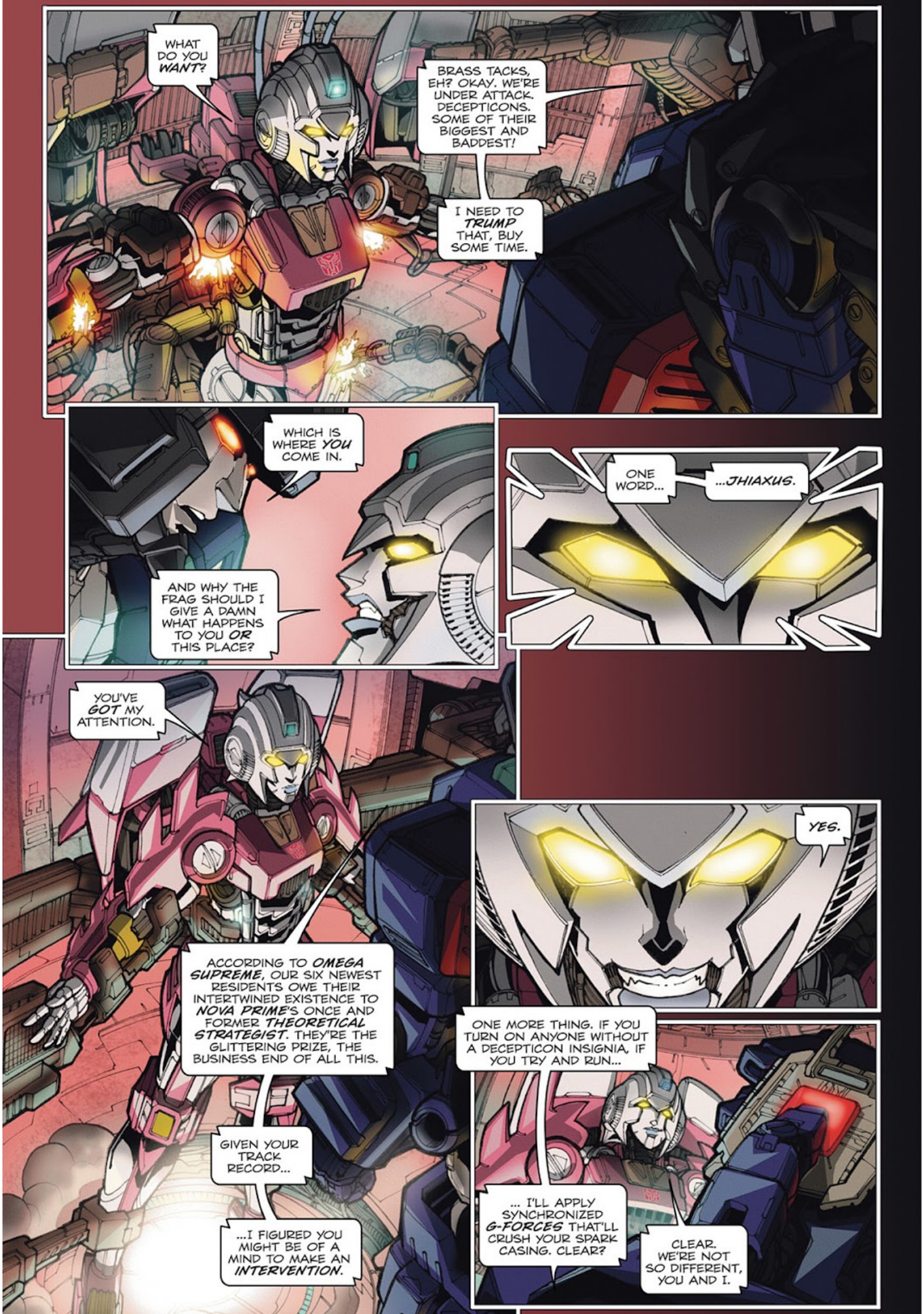

WE'RE BEING OVERRUN OUT HERE...
...IT'S TURNING INTO A SLAGGING SLAUGHTER...
...MAIN GRID IS DOWN. AUXILIARY DEFENSE SYSTEMS ARE NON-RESPONSIVE...
...STRONGHOLD HAS BEEN BREACHED, WE HAVE ISOLATION UNIT PENETRATION...
THIS IS FORTRESS MAXIMUS, SENDING TO ALL TACTICAL RESPONSE UNITS IN SUB-LIGHT TRANSIT DISTANCE OF GARRUS-9. WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! MAIN CARGO IN JEOPARDY!
AARGH!
HAARK!
COMPUTER—GIVE ME AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT INMATES. MAIN CATEGORY: AUTOBOT. SUB-CATEGORY: THREAT LEVEL-9.
ONE RESULT FOUND.
HMM.
ARCEE


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COUNTLESS DECA-CYCLES I AM *AT PEACE*.
HERE, BUFFERED BY NOTHINGNESS, AWARE BUT SUSPENDED IN BLISSFUL DESENSITIZED NON-SPACE, THE *PAIN* AND *RAGE* ARE REDUCED TO DULL, PHANTOM ACHES.
I DRIFT. SERENE.

AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, MY ABSTRACT HALF-LIFE...
...IS SENT *CASCADING* INTO HARSH, BRUTAL REALITY.


WELCOME *BACK*, ARCEE. DO YOU *KNOW* WHERE YOU ARE?
I DO.


IN *HELL*, OR AT LEAST YOUR LITTLE CORNER OF IT, FORTRESS MAXIMUS—*THE LAST RESORT*!
IMPRESSIVE. REINTEGRATION NORMALLY RESULTS IN SEVERE DISORIENTATION. YOU REALLY ARE A PIECE OF WORK.

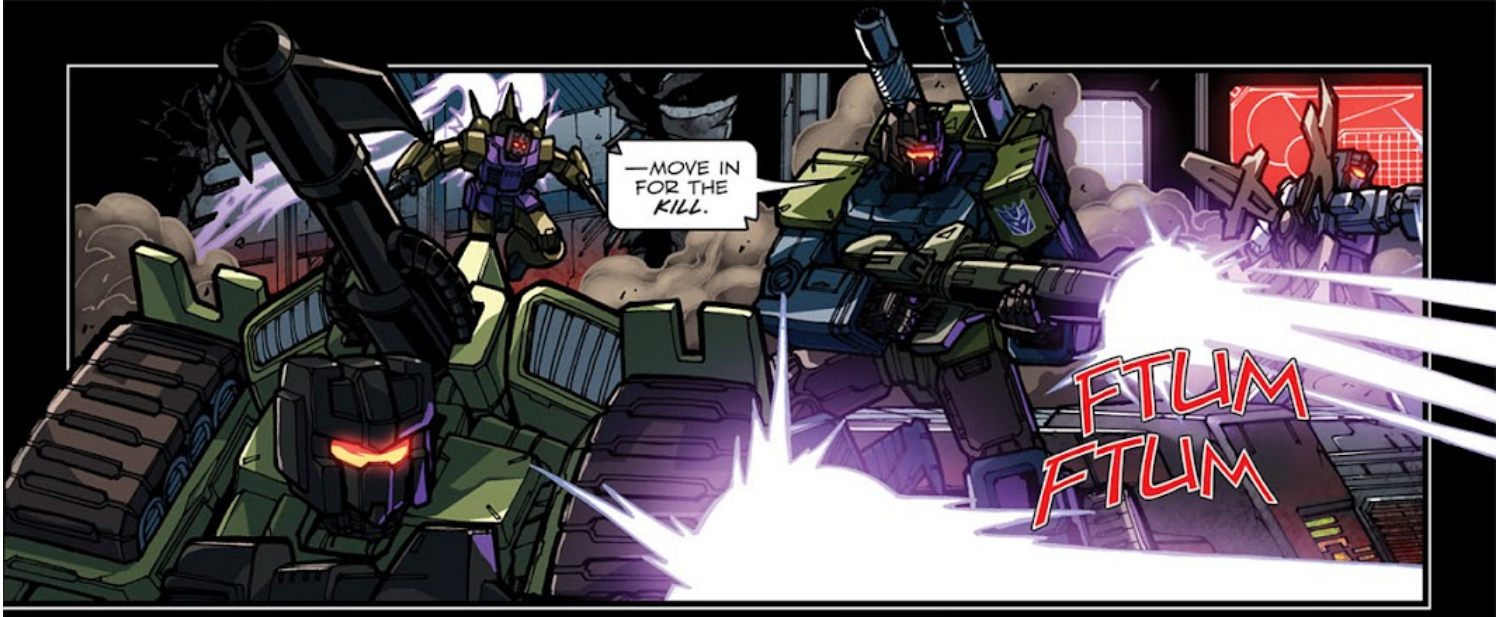

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BRASS TACKS, EH? OKAY. WE'RE UNDER ATTACK. DECEPTICONS. SOME OF THEIR BIGGEST AND BADDEST!
I NEED TO TRUMP THAT, BUY SOME TIME.
WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN.
AND WHY THE FRAG SHOULD I GIVE A DAMN WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU OR THIS PLACE?
ONE WORD...
...JHIAXUS.
YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.
ACCORDING TO OMEGA SUPREME, OUR SIX NEWEST RESIDENTS OWE THEIR INTERTWINED EXISTENCE TO NOVA PRIME'S ONCE AND FORMER THEORETICAL STRATEGIST. THEY'RE THE GLITTERING PRIZE, THE BUSINESS END OF ALL THIS.
GIVEN YOUR TRACK RECORD...
...I FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE OF A MIND TO MAKE AN INTERVENTION.
YES.
ONE MORE THING. IF YOU TURN ON ANYONE WITHOUT A DECEPTICON INSIGNIA, IF YOU TRY AND RUN...
... I'LL APPLY SYNCHRONIZED G-FORCES THAT'LL CRUSH YOUR SPARK CASING. CLEAR?
CLEAR. WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, YOU AND I.

"NEITHER OF US LIKE TO *LOSE*."
I CAN'T HOLD THEM. *AFTERBURNER*, SCATTERSHOT—DO IT!
ZZAW
THOW
VIP VIP

YES. OPTIMUS PRIME WAS CLEAR—THE SUBJECTS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, EVEN IF IT MEANS *TERMINATION*!
PREPARING TO CROSS-CONNECT NOW. THE FEEDBACK WILL FRY THEIR NEURAL PATHWAYS. I JUST WISH...
...THERE WAS ANOTHER—

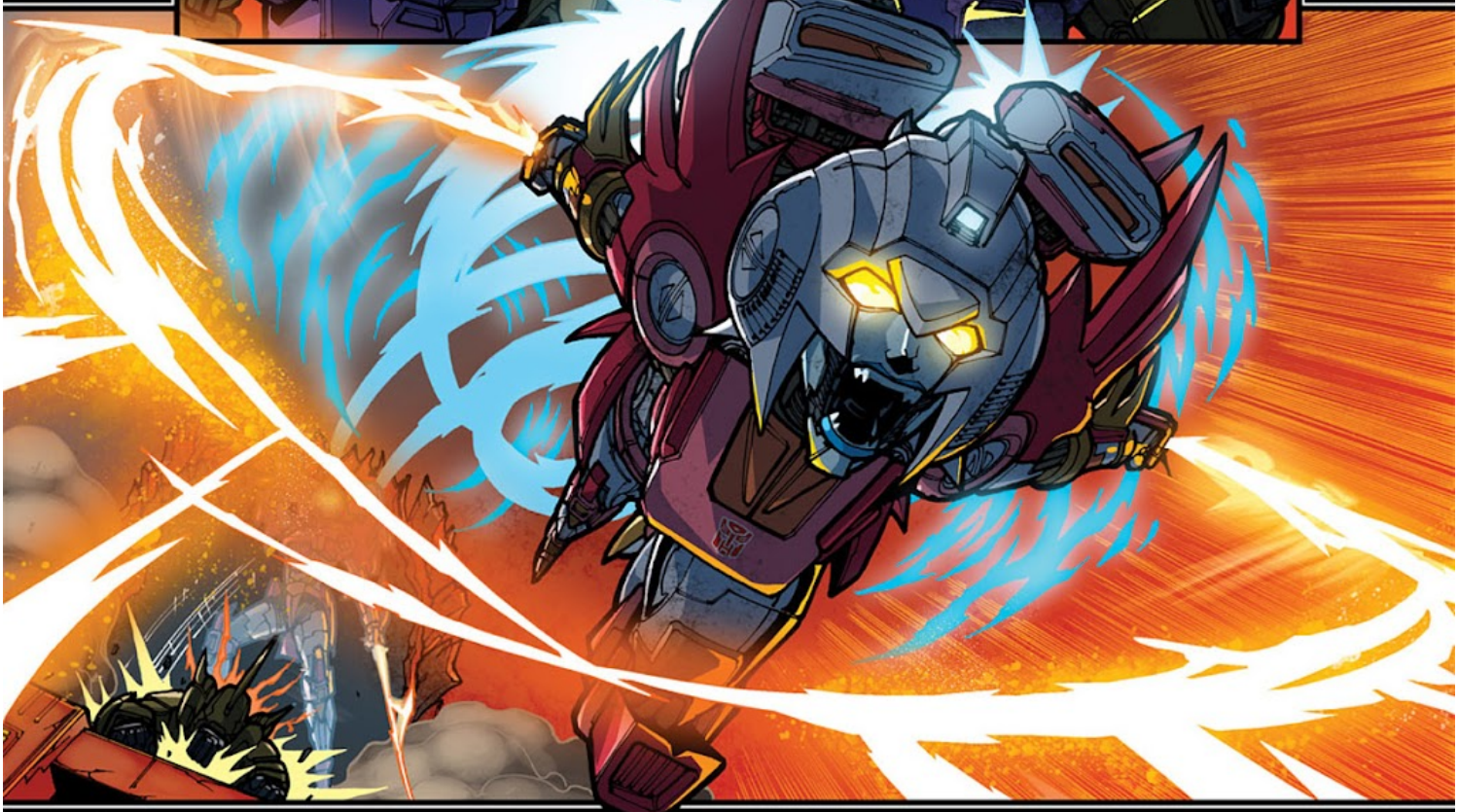
—WHT!
KA SHAKT

NUHT!
COMBATICONS—
VZAPT


—MOVE IN FOR THE KILL.
FTUM FTUM

HEH. IT'S MUCH MORE SATISFYING WHEN THEY SQUIRM. THAT LITTLE BIT OF DEFIANCE, FUTILE THOUGH IT MAY BE, MAKES ALL THE—

—DIFFERENCE.
OH.



OH NO...
...NOT HER!
STRUTLESS FOOL. SHE'S NOTHING.

JUST MORE FODDER...
...FOR THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE!
DOM
DOM
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I TOLD ALL THE OTHERS. IF YOU'RE BETWEEN ME AND HIS HANDIWORK, YOU'RE GONE...
...JUST GONE!
FNGH!
VVANK

I'M GOING TO BURN IT ALL DOWN.
AND YOU RIGHT ALONG WITH IT.
SLAG THIS! IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR...
...AND GOT THE FRAG OUT OF HERE!
N-NO... STOP HIM. SOMEONE...
...BEFORE...

NO ONE MOVE!
TELL ME...
...DOES THAT EVER WORK?
DAMN.
PERHAPS SOMEONE CAN STILL INTERCEPT THEM.
WHO?
ME.
YOU? THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING IS BACK TO YOUR ALCOVE IN F-WING.
I'M GOING AFTER THEM. IT'S THAT...

...OR KILL ME NOW.
I CAN *FIND* THEM. I CAN *STOP* THIS. IT'S WHAT I *DO*. DON'T ASK ME HOW OR WHY, BUT IT'S ALMOST A HOMING INSTINCT. ME, JHIAXUS, HIS "EXPERIMENTS"...
...WE'RE *LINKED*.

ARCEE, WHAT *IS* IT BETWEEN YOU AND HIM? HELP US UNDERSTAND.
JETFIRE...
IT'S OKAY. I *DON'T* THINK SHE'LL HARM ME.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU'RE *DOING* IT, DO YOU?
DOING WHAT?

"SHE."

WE USE "HE" AMONG OURSELVES AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST THE PRONOUN OF CHOICE, RIGHT?
HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHY IT'S "SHE" AND "HER" WITH ME? IT'S BECAUSE YOU UNCONSCIOUSLY *SENSE* A DIFFERENCE.

JHIAXUS ARBITRARILY DECIDED TO INTRODUCE GENDER INTO OUR SPECIES AND *I* WAS HIS FIRST TEST-SUBJECT. HE TAMPERED WITH MY FUNDAMENTAL *C.N.A.*, AND YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE HE WAS CURIOUS. BECAUSE HE *COULD*!

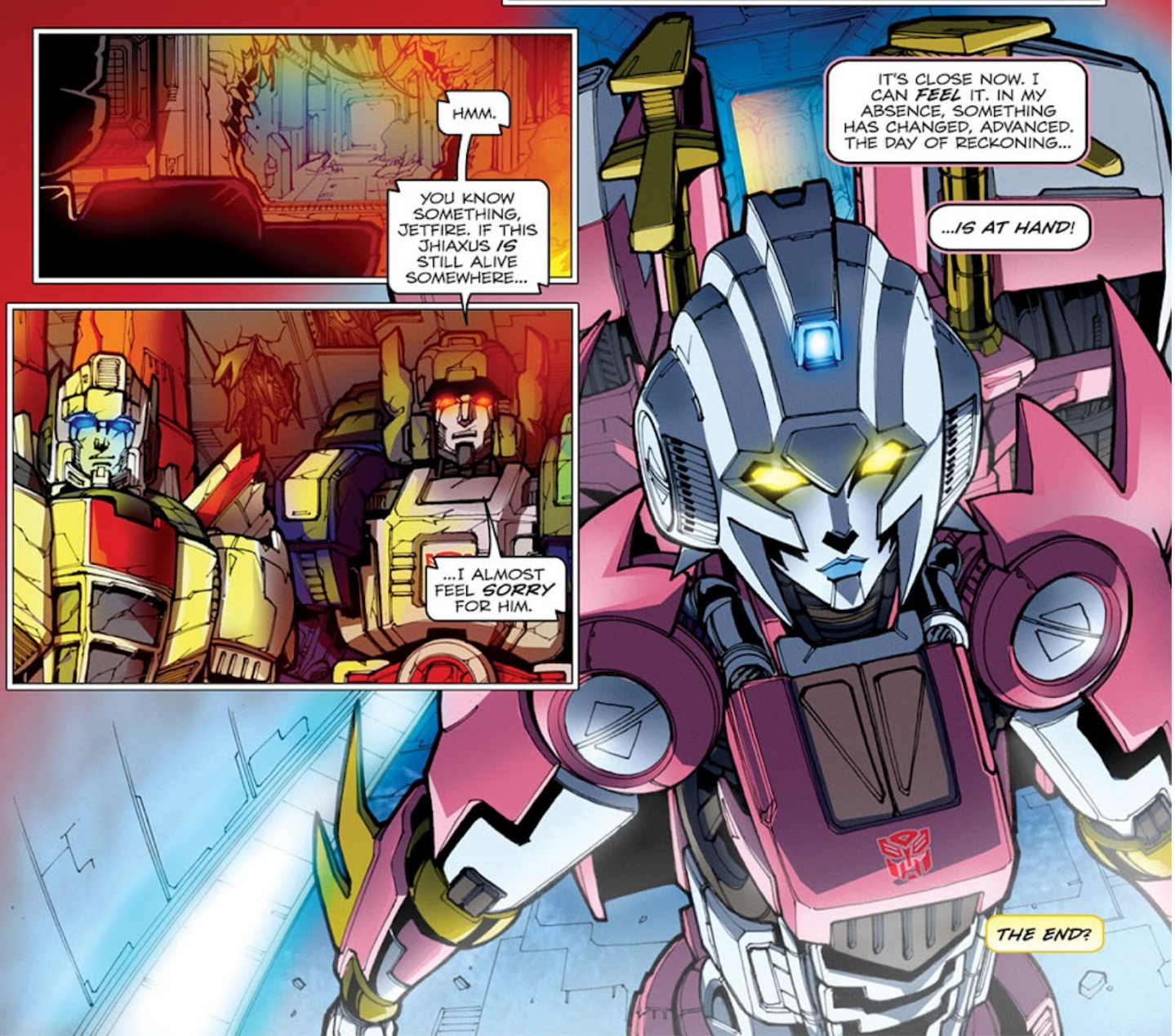
CLEARLY I DIDN'T MEASURE UP TO WHATEVER IDEAL HE'D HOPED TO ACHIEVE AND SO HE DISCARDED ME WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, LEFT ME TO THIS MADDENING MAELSTROM OF CONTRADICTORY SENSORY INPUT.
NOW I SIMPLY CAN'T REST UNTIL EVERYTHING HE'S TOUCHED IS WIPED CLEAN.
ARCEE...

...STOP.
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN, NOT ON MY WATCH.

FORTRESS MAXIMUS...
...LET HER GO. I'LL BACK UP ANY STORY YOU WANT TO CONCOCT. AFTER ALL, WHAT HAVE WE REALLY GOT TO LOSE?

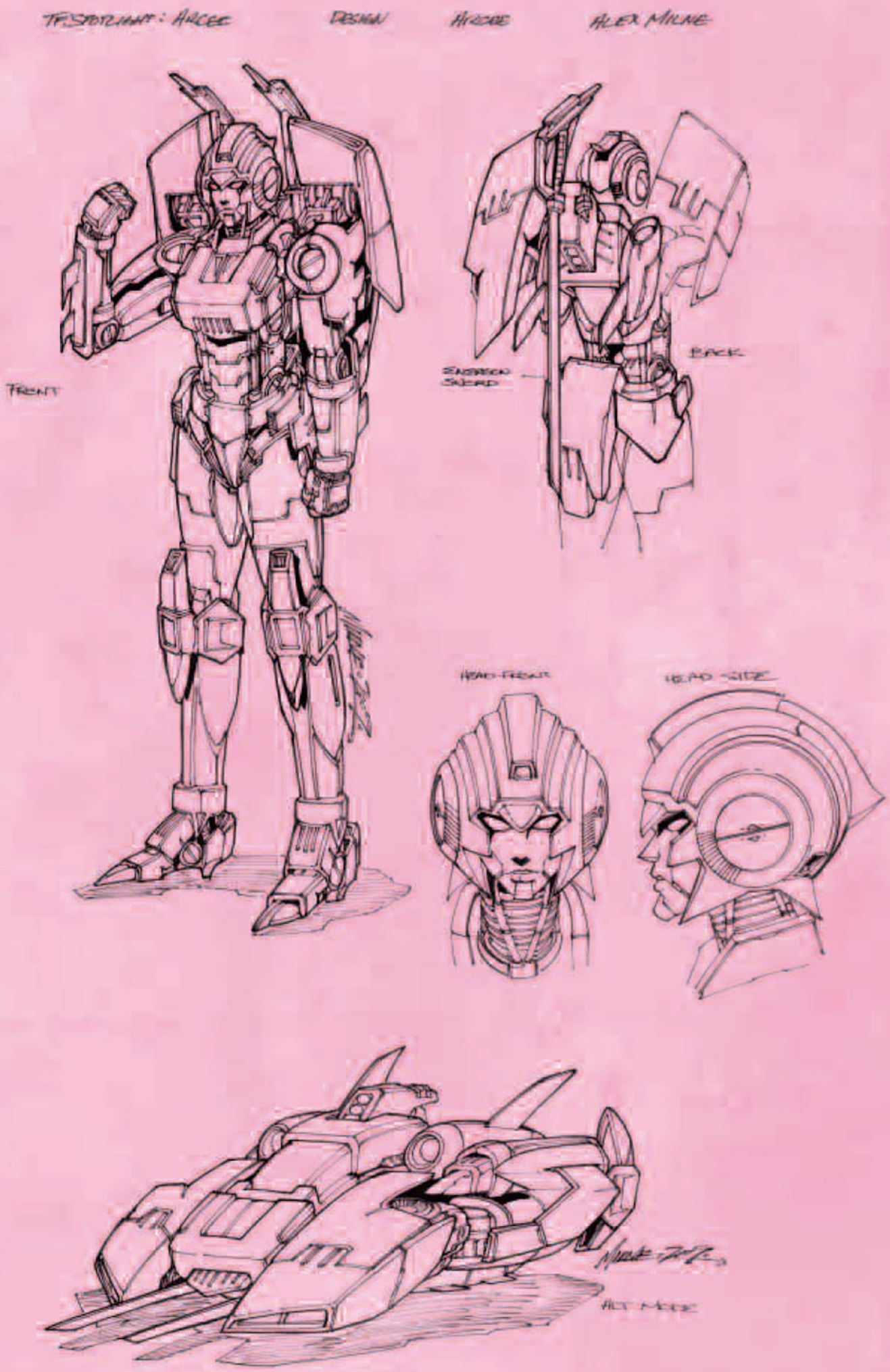
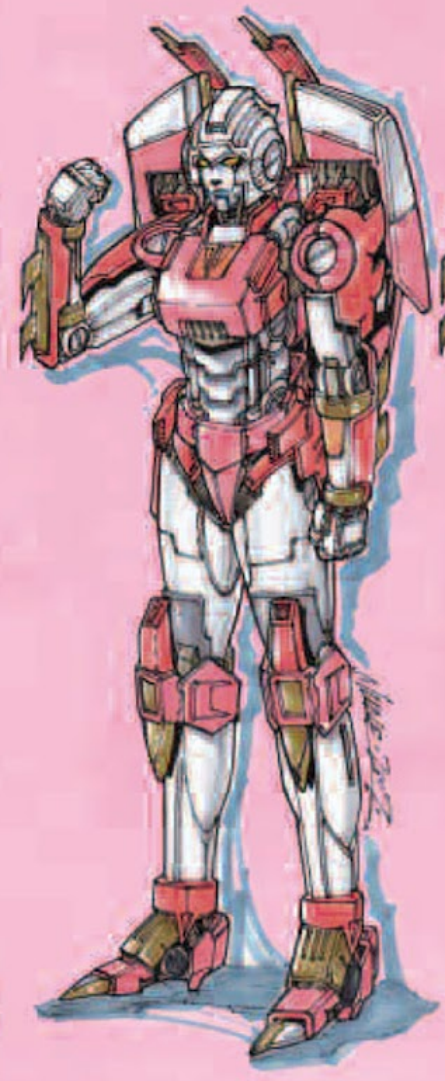
HMM.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, JETFIRE. IF THIS JHIAXUS IS STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE...

...I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.


IT'S CLOSE NOW. I CAN FEEL IT. IN MY ABSENCE, SOMETHING HAS CHANGED, ADVANCED. THE DAY OF RECKONING...
...IS AT HAND!
THE END?

NEXT MONTH:
GRIMLOCK
Licensed by:
HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2008 Hasbro. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All rights Reserved.

ALEX MILNE DESIGN SKETCHES



ALEX MILNE COLOR STUDIES